

## **Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting**

**July 27, 2018**

**California EcoRestore**  
***(Mike Roberts, California Natural Resources Agency)***

### **BRIEFING SUMMARY**

California EcoRestore was established in April 2015 as an initiative under the California Natural Resources Agency to advance a minimum of 30,000 acres of critical habitat restoration in the Delta and Suisun Marsh by 2020. California EcoRestore's original three approaches were to promote the development of regional restoration planning efforts, accelerate habitat restoration projects, and support adaptive management needs of those projects. California EcoRestore is actively engaged in resolving a variety of implementation issues with a focus on programmatic solutions rather than project by project approaches. The initiative is also currently focusing on outreaching the pending success of the many individual program efforts that make up EcoRestore.

In 2018, significant on-the-ground efforts will advance implementation of Delta restoration actions after decades of groundwork. This includes potentially six projects starting construction to restore critical habitats, as well as including flood control improvements, and removing fish migratory barriers. In May 2018, DWR and Reclamation celebrated the groundbreaking of the Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage project, addressing a long-standing source of migratory delay to, and loss of, adult salmon and sturgeon. Construction is underway to widen and deepen the existing fish ladder at the Fremont Weir to allow for fish passage immediately following weir overtopping events. Many federal, state, and local agencies were involved in the planning and permitting of this effort, including the Central Valley Flood Protection Board. Many more restoration projects are continuing through the planning, design, and permitting process, aiming to reach the milestone of construction by 2020.

California EcoRestore is also participating in both Delta-wide and region-specific planning efforts to support more comprehensive approaches to habitat restoration. Planning efforts are occurring in the Yolo/Cache Slough region as well as the more recent Central Delta Corridor region, both seeking to incorporate a local perspective right from the start, and look for synergies among neighboring lands where possible.

Other notable efforts also involve working to resolve long-standing challenges to habitat implementation through supporting new programmatic permitting efforts, crafting new contracting and land acquisition approaches, and identifying funding sources for long-term operation and maintenance, and adaptive management needs.

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